

Application No. 10/040,995
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct a minor informality of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendment to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

New independent claim 12 has been added based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 1, 4 and 7.

In addition, new independent claim 13 has been added based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 1, 4 and 7, and the disclosure in Fig. 4. See also the specification at page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 5.

Still further, new independent method claims 14 and 15 have been added corresponding to new claims 12 and 13, respectively.

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 10, moreover, have been amended to depend from new claim 12.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 and the addition of claims 12-15 be approved and entered.

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CLAIM FEE

The application was originally filed with 11 claims of which 2 were independent. The application now contains 8 claims, of which 4 are independent. Accordingly, a claim fee in the amount of \$200 for the addition of 1 extra independent claim is attached hereto. In addition, authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees which may be determined to be required to Account No. 06-1378.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,744,426 ("Okamoto et al"), and claims 3 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Okamoto et al and US 2002/0051220 ("Tanaka et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As recognized by the Examiner, Okamoto et al discloses in Fig. 5 thereof (and at column 9, line 64 to column 10 line 2 and column 10 lines 8-11) that an electronic white board 1 can be connected to a PC 100, and that the PC 100 can be connected to a hub through a LAN or a modem. According to Okamoto et al, information written on the white board 1 in one room can thus be sent to a PC 100 at another location.

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It is respectfully submitted, however, that Okamoto et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest that the white board can be accessed by any of the PCs 100 or any other companies 5 to request information to be transferred to the PCs or companies.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Okamoto et al does not disclose, teach or suggest transferring, via a computer network to a terminal, encoded image data that is designated by the terminal and that is stored in a storage section, in response to a request issued from the terminal when the terminal accesses the electric copy board via the computer network, as according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 12 and corresponding new independent method claim 14.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that according to new independent claim 13 and corresponding method claim 15, a first transfer section transfers encoded image data read from the copy board to a designated transfer destination via a computer network; a storage section at the copy board stores the transferred image data; and a second transfer section transfers, via the computer network to a terminal, encoded image data that is designated by the terminal and that is stored in the storage section, in response to a request issued from the terminal when the terminal accesses the electric copy board via the computer network.

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That is, according to new independent claims 13 and 15 the image data is both transferred to a designated external destination and stored at the copy board, and the stored image data is available for transfer again at the request of a terminal.

And it is respectfully submitted that Okamoto et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a copy board having the features of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 13 and corresponding new independent method claim 15.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Tanaka et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in new independent claims 12-15.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 12-15, and claims 2, 3, 9 and 10 depending from new claim 12, all clearly patentably distinguish over Okamoto et al, taken singly or in combination with Tanaka et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY SHEET

It is noted that the Examiner did not complete item 10 of the Office Action Summary Sheet, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the English language drawings filed on March 29, 2002, and confirm that the drawings are acceptable.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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